

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 14216 161110Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----105927 161112Z /13

O 161054Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0156
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI IMMEDIATE
CINCPACREPPH SUBICAY RP IMMEDIATE
SUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
13THAF CLARK AB RP IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANILA 14216

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, RP, US
SUBJECT: RECESS OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS

REF: (A) MANILA 14128, (B) MANILA 13572, (C) MANILA 13661

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, GEN ESPINO INFORMED LTG MANOR AUGUST 16 THAT HE (ESPINO) HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY MARCOS TO RECESS MILITARY-TO-MILITARY TALKS AND TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR REVIEW BY THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. ESPINO COULD NOT FORECAST THE DURATION OF THE RECESS. HE SAID HE BELIEVED IT WOULD NOT BE LONG AND NOTED THAT HE MIGHT KNOW MORE AFTER A GOLF MATCH WITH MARCOS AUGUST 18.

2. THERE ARE A RANGE OF POSSIBLE REASONS WHY MARCOS HAS CALLED FOR A RECESS:

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- A) MARCOS MAY SIMPLY WANT A SYSTEMATIC AND DETAILED
- REVIEW OF THE WORK OF HIS PANEL. (IT WILL BE
- RECALLED HE REQUESTED SUCH A STAND DOWN AND REVIEW
- DURING THE 1976 ROUND.) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT
- MARCOS HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED TO DO THIS BY ENRILE
- AND OTHERS WHO MAY BE UNEASY THAT THEY ARE NOT

- DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE TALKS;
- B) MARCOS MAY WANT TO FACTOR INTO THE EQUATION THE
- RESPONSE HE RECEIVED FROM US LAST WEEK ON
- INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USE OF BASE LANDS;
- C) MRS. MARCOS ARRIVED AUGUST 15 FROM HER EXTENSIVE
- TRAVELS ABROAD AND MAY HAVE HAD SOME INFLUENCE
- ON MARCOS' DECISION;
- D) THE KB OPEN LETTER ON THE BASES (REF B) CONTINUES
- TO REVERBERATE LIGHTLY BUT PERSISTENTLY IN THE
- INTERIM ASSEMBLY AND IN THE PRESS.

3. WE CANNOT BE SURE WHAT IS BEHIND MARCOS' DECISION. WHILE THE NEED FOR REVIEW CITED IN A ABOVE SEEMS REASON-
ABLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE MARCOS CALLED FOR A REVIEW IN
1976, THERE ARE ENOUGH STRINGS LEADING INTO THIS COMPLEX
ISSUE TO MAKE ANY JUDGMENTS NOW ABOUT HIS MOTIVES HIGHLY
SPECULATIVE. WE DO, HOWEVER, SEE NO RPT NO CAUSE FOR
ALARM AT THIS TIME, NOR DO WE WISH TO CONVEY ANY SENSE OF
ANXIETY TO GOP. UNTIL WE KNOW MORE, OUR BEST COURSE
WOULD SEEM TO BE TO AWAIT PATIENTLY AND QUIETLY FURTHER
DEVELOPMENTS. WE WILL KEEP OUR EARS AND EYES OPEN AND BE
PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE TO THE PRESS AND MEDIA IN THE
COMING DAYS. WE WILL, OF COURSE, MAKE NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

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MURPHY

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